

We claim:

1. A method of delivering a message using a wireless communications network voicemail system comprising:

leaving a calling-party-to-called-party voicemail message on the wireless communications network voicemail system;

retrieving the voicemail message by the called party; and

sending a voicemail retrieval notification acknowledgement message to the calling party indicating that the called party has retrieved the calling-party-to-called-party voicemail message.

2. The method defined in claim 1, wherein the voicemail retrieval notification acknowledgement message is a Short Message Service (SMS) message and the sending step further comprises sending the SMS message to the calling party terminal.

3. The method defined in claim 1, wherein the voicemail retrieval notification acknowledgement message is a voice message sending step further comprises sending the voicemail message to the calling party terminal.

4. The method defined in claim 1, wherein the voicemail retrieval notification acknowledgement message is a voicemail message and the sending step further comprises sending the voicemail message to the calling party's voicemail.

5. The method defined in claim 1 further comprising the calling party requesting voicemail retrieval notification.

6. The method defined in claim 5 wherein the requesting step further comprises:

    sending a retrieval notification prompt to the calling party; and  
    receiving a retrieval notification response from the calling party indicating that the calling party is requesting voicemail retrieval notification.

7. The method defined in claim 5 further comprising:  
    setting a retrieval notification indicator indicating that a voicemail retrieval notification acknowledgement is to be sent to the calling party after the retrieving step.

8. The method defined in claim 1 further comprising associating calling party contact information with the voicemail message.

9. The method defined in claim 1 further comprising:  
    determining the retrieval date and time when called party retrieved the calling-party-to-called-party voicemail message; and  
    including the retrieval date and time in the voicemail retrieval notification acknowledgement message.

10. The method defined in claim 1 further comprising:

including the called party phone number in the voicemail retrieval notification acknowledgement message.

11. The method defined in claim 1 wherein the voicemail retrieval notification acknowledgement message includes the date and time the calling party left the voicemail message in the leaving step.

12. A method of delivering a message using a wireless communications network comprising:

sending a voicemail retrieval notification acknowledgement message to a calling party indicating that a called party has retrieved a calling-party-to-called-party voicemail message.

13. A system for voicemail retrieval notification comprising:

means for sending a voicemail retrieval notification acknowledgement message to the calling party indicating that the called party has retrieved the calling-party-to-called-party voicemail message.

14. The system defined in claim 13 further comprising:

means for leaving a calling-party-to-called-party voicemail message on the wireless communications network voicemail system; and

means for retrieving the voicemail message by the called party.

15. The system defined in claim 13 further comprising:

means for sending a voicemail retrieval notification acknowledgement message to the calling party indicating the time and date when the called party retrieved the calling-party-to-called-party voicemail message.

16. The system defined in claim 13 further comprising:

means for sending an SMS message to the calling party, wherein the voicemail retrieval notification acknowledgement message is an SMS message.

17. The system defined in claim 13 further comprising:

means for sending a voicemail message to the calling party, wherein the voicemail retrieval notification acknowledgement message is a voicemail message.

18. The system defined in claim 13 further comprising:

means for sending a voicemail message to the calling party, wherein the voicemail retrieval notification acknowledgement message is a voice message.